

Serial Number: 09/550,987
Attorney Docket: 060021-356301

Amendments to the Claims

1. (currently amended) A method for listing activities in a graphical user interface in a collaborative work tool framework comprising the steps of:
 - (a) displaying an activity window having activity description data, activity start data, activity duration data, and an activity status data;
 - (b) defining an activity in response to user selection of a defined activity button, wherein the defined activity is thereafter displayed in the activity window and the defined activity includes an activity description, a start time, a duration, and a status; and
 - (c) determining the status for the defined activity based on the start time activity start data for the defined activity and the activity duration data for the defined activity; and
 - (d) automatically acquiring background information relevant to the defined activity including automatically obtaining the activity description when the start time is within a predetermined period, parsing and pattern matching the activity description to identify searchable components thereof, querying a plurality of sources across a network to obtain the background information, and receiving the background information in response to querying the plurality of sources.
2. (original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the activity is defined as a brainstorming activity.
3. (original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the activity is defined as a categorization activity.

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4. (original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the activity is defined as a voting activity.
5. (original) A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of displaying a message window capable of displaying user messages in real-time.
6. (original) A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of sending the defined activity to a database in response to user selection of a submit button.
7. (original) A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of sending the defined activity to a specific participant user in response to user selection of the specific participant user from a participant user menu.
8. (currently amended) A computer program embodied on a computer readable medium for listing activities in a graphical user interface in a collaborative work tool framework comprising:
 - (a) a code segment for displaying an activity window having activity description data, activity start data, activity duration data, and an activity status data;
 - (b) a code segment for defining an activity in response to user selection of a defined activity button, wherein the defined activity is thereafter displayed in the activity window and the defined activity includes an activity description, a start time, a duration, and a status; and

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- (c) a code segment for determining the status for the defined activity based on the start time activity start data for the defined activity and the activity duration data for the defined activity; and
 - (d) a code segment for automatically acquiring background information relevant to the defined activity including automatically obtaining the activity description when the start time is within a predetermined period, parsing and pattern matching the activity description to identify searchable components thereof, querying a plurality of sources across a network to obtain the background information, and receiving the background information in response to querying the plurality of sources.
9. (original) A computer program as recited in claim 8, wherein the activity is defined as a brainstorming activity.
10. (original) A computer program as recited in claim 8, wherein the activity is defined as a categorization activity.
11. (original) A computer program as recited in claim 8, wherein the activity is defined as a voting activity.
12. (original) A computer program as recited in claim 8, further comprising a code segment for displaying a message window capable of displaying user messages in real-time.

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13. (original) A computer program as recited in claim 8, further comprising a code segment for sending the defined activity to a database in response to user selection of a submit button.
14. (original) A computer program as recited in claim 8, further comprising a code segment for sending the defined activity to a specific participant user in response to user selection of the specific participant user from a participant user menu.
15. (currently amended) A system for listing activities in a graphical user interface in a collaborative work tool framework comprising the steps of:
 - (a) logic for displaying an activity window having activity description data, activity start data, activity duration data, and an activity status data;
 - (b) logic for defining an activity in response to user selection of a defined activity button, wherein the defined activity is thereafter displayed in the activity window and the defined activity includes an activity description, a start time, a duration, and a status; and
 - (c) logic for determining the status for the defined activity based on the start time activity start data for the defined activity and the activity duration data for the defined activity; and
 - (d) logic for automatically acquiring background information relevant to the defined activity including automatically obtaining the activity description when the start time is within a predetermined period, parsing and pattern matching the activity description to identify searchable components thereof, querying a plurality of sources across a network to obtain the background information,

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and receiving the background information in response to querying the plurality of sources.

16. (original) A system as recited in claim 15, wherein the activity is defined as a brainstorming activity.
17. (original) A system as recited in claim 15, wherein the activity is defined as a categorization activity.
18. (original) A system as recited in claim 15, wherein the activity is defined as a voting activity.
19. (original) A system as recited in claim 15, further comprising logic for displaying a message window capable of displaying user messages in real-time.
20. (original) A system as recited in claim 15, further comprising logic for sending the defined activity to a database in response to user selection of a submit button.